

18 October 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Meeting of Special Group CI - 17 October 1963

1. Report on IDP Plan for Iran involved general discussion of no significance.
2. Progress report on IDP plan in Thailand: report by Ambassador Young; general discussion; no specific action.
3. Consideration of the summary status report on Viet Nam presented for consideration. I took the position that the report had been delivered to me the evening before and I had not read it and therefore could not comment on it and suggested it be put over until the next meeting; however I did express serious concern over the situation in South Viet Nam, stating that it was my observation that our relationships with the South Viet Nam government were worsening steadily and that various reports which had been received indicated that there was a widening of the gap between the GVN and the U.S. at practically all levels except military. I stated that if this situation continued which in my opinion was totally without precedent, i.e. for the United States to be devoting enormous resources to defeating Communism in a country at a time when its relationship with the government of that country steadily deteriorated, that I felt the ultimate result would be a defeat for the United States in its effort to obtain its stated objective of defeating Communism in Viet Nam. For this reason I urged that the Group give very special consideration to this problem.

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5. Meetings for the next two weeks conflict with other programs and therefore no meetings will be held on next Thursday or the Thursday thereafter.

The only action taken by the Special Group CI was to review all countries which are assigned to this Group to see whether some of them might be dropped from active consideration. It is to be recalled that this was discussed last week with respect to Ecuador. The same subject was brought up with respect to Iran at this meeting. DCI suggested that each of the countries assigned to the CI Group be studied from the standpoint of all available intelligence, an assessment made as to

whether they could be (a) dropped from the list, or (b) placed in a category II and only considered if special situations of an ominous character developed.

JAM/mfb (tape)